

WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, DC

ORDER NO. 11,445

IN THE MATTER OF:

Served July 1, 2008

Investigation of Prescription of an) Case No. MP-2008-169
Interstate Taxicab Fuel Surcharge)
for WASHINGTON FLYER Taxicabs)

Pursuant to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Regulation Compact,¹ the Commission is responsible for prescribing the rates, charges, regulations, and minimum insurance requirements for interstate taxicab trips between one Compact signatory and another² where the origin and destination are both within the Metropolitan District.³ The Metropolitan District includes Washington Dulles International Airport.⁴ On-demand taxicab service is provided at Dulles by Washington Flyer taxicabs, which are operated by three companies under contract with the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, (MWAA).

This proceeding is being initiated in response to comments filed by MWAA in another ratemaking proceeding involving Washington Flyer taxicabs.⁵ That proceeding was initiated to consider permitting Washington Flyer taxicab drivers to add a \$2.50 surcharge to the fare for each interstate taxicab trip originating at Dulles Airport to compensate for the \$2.50 access fee Washington Flyer drivers must pay each time they enter and exit the Dulles passenger loading zone.⁶ MWAA supported a \$2.50 surcharge but not because of the access fee. According to MWAA, it had already "addressed the economic impact of this access fee on Washington Flyer taxicab operators by reducing the stand dues they could be charged by Washington Flyer taxicab companies."⁷ MWAA commented that a \$2.50 surcharge is warranted nevertheless to compensate Washington Flyer drivers for the recent increase in fuel expense.⁸ MWAA recommends adding the surcharge to the Washington Flyer meter rate for the first quarter mile but only for a

¹ Pub. L. No. 101-505, § 1, tit. II, art. XI, § 1(b), 104 Stat. 1300, 1304, (1990) (codified at D.C. CODE ANN. § 9-1103.01 (2007); MD. TRANSP. CODE ANN. § 10-203 (2007); & VA. CODE ANN. §§ 56-529, 530 (2007)).

² The Compact signatories are the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the State of Maryland.

³ Compact, tit. II, art. XI, § 18(a).

⁴ Compact, tit. II, art. I.

⁵ See *In re Petition of Dulles Airport Taxi, Inc., t/a Washington Flyer*, No. MP-08-125, Order No. 11,444 (July 1, 2008) (discussing same).

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ *Id.*

six month period, after which time MWAA advocates permanently increasing the Washington Flyer mileage rate by a commensurate amount.⁹

The current interstate rates for trips in Washington Flyer taxicabs went into effect February 5, 2006.¹⁰ Those rates were based in part on an average price of \$2.26 for a gallon of regular gasoline in the Washington Metropolitan Area as of November 17, 2005.¹¹ According to the American Automobile Association, the average price of a gallon of regular gasoline in the Metropolitan Area has increased to \$4.08 as of June 25, 2008.¹²

The Commission has prescribed interstate fuel surcharges for Washington Flyer taxicabs in the past based on an average of the prevailing fuel surcharges set by local jurisdictions in the Metropolitan District.¹³ It appears that a majority of those jurisdictions currently have in place a \$1.00 per-trip fuel surcharge.

We will issue public notice of this proceeding and establish a period for receiving comments on whether the Commission should approve a temporary interstate fuel surcharge for Washington Flyer taxicabs.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED:

1. This proceeding is hereby initiated under Title II of the Compact, Article XI, Section 18.

2. Commission staff shall cause notice of this proceeding to be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the Metropolitan District and posted to the Commission's website no later than ten days after the date of this order.

3. Any person desiring to file comments in this proceeding shall submit them in writing within thirty days of the date of this order by emailing them to info@wmatac.gov, faxing them to 202-653-2179, or mailing them to 1828 L St., NW, #703, Washington, DC 20036.

BY DIRECTION OF THE COMMISSION; COMMISSIONERS YATES AND CHRISTIE:



William S. Morrow, Jr.
Executive Director

⁹ *Id.*

¹⁰ In re Interstate Taxicab Rates & Charges, No. MP-05-132, Order No. 9240 (Jan. 6, 2006).

¹¹ *Id.* at 3

¹² <http://www.fuelgaugereport.com/DCmetro.asp>.

¹³ In re Petition of Dulles Taxi Sys., Inc., t/a Washington Flyer, No. MP-05-49, Order No. 8778 (June 15, 2005).